

PHNL031133

PCT/IB2004/051661

17

## CLAIMS:

1. A content item recorder (101) comprising:  
storage means (109) for storing a plurality of content items;  
means (115) for generating reduced reference information associated with the plurality of content items; and  
5 means (117) for storing the reduced reference information to a back-up memory (119) separate from the storage means (109).
2. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises an information subset of a user profile associated with the plurality of  
10 content items.
3. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (115) for generating is operable to select information of the user profile for the information subset in response to a user profile detail level associated with the information.  
15
4. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means (115) for generating is operable to select information of the user profile for the information subset in response to a user profile certainty level associated with the information.
- 20 5. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising first recording means (117, 115) for recording content items to a removable medium and second recording means (117, 115) for recording the reduced reference information to the removable medium.
- 25 6. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the second recording means (117, 115) is operable to automatically record the reduced reference information to the removable medium in response to the first recording means (117, 115) recording a content item to the removable medium.

PHNL031133

PCT/IB2004/051661

18

7. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means for determining whether a removable medium comprises recorded reduced reference information and to automatically record the reduced reference information to the removable medium if the removable medium does not comprise recorded reduced reference information.
- 5
8. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the reduced reference information further comprises removable medium catalogue information.
9. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 5 wherein the removable medium
- 10 is a recordable Digital Versatile Disc (DVD).
10. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises identity information associated with content items currently stored in the storage means.
- 15
11. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises a title of at least one content item.
12. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity
- 20 information comprises a broadcast time of a broadcast programme content item.
13. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises a broadcast channel identification of a broadcast programme content item.
- 25
14. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 10 wherein the identity information comprises content item signature data of at least one content item.
15. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference
- 30 information comprises pointers to external copies of the content items of at least one of the plurality of content items.
16. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced reference information comprises content item access rights information.

PHNL031133

PCT/IB2004/051661

19

17. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 further comprising  
means (121) for entering a restore mode of operation;  
means (121, 117) for retrieving the reduced reference information from the back-up memory;  
5 means (121) for retrieving content items in response to the reduced reference  
information from at least one external source; and  
means (121) for storing the retrieved content items.
18. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 17 further comprising access  
10 means for accessing a network comprising the at least one source.
19. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 18 wherein the network is a peer-  
to-peer network.
- 15 20. A content item recorder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the content item  
recorder is a Personal Video Recorder (PVR).
21. A method of operation for a content item recorder (101) having storage means  
(109) for storing a plurality of content items, the method comprising the steps of:  
20 generating reduced reference information associated with the plurality of  
content items; and  
storing the reduced reference information to a back-up memory separate from  
the storage means.
- 25 22. A method of operation for a content item recorder as claimed in claim 21  
further comprising the steps of:  
entering a restore mode of operation;  
retrieving the reduced reference information from the back-up memory;  
retrieving content items in response to the reduced reference information from  
30 at least one external source; and  
storing the retrieved content items.
23. A computer program enabling the carrying out of a method according to claim  
22.

24. A record carrier comprising a computer program as claimed in claim 23.